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HOUSE MEMORIAL 56

49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2010

INTRODUCED BY

Jeff Steinborn

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO EXAMINE THE POSSIBILITY OF COORDINATING OR CONSOLIDATING TRAINING PROGRAMS IN THE STATE FOR DIRECT CAREGIVERS ACROSS ALL DISABILITY PROGRAMS AND THEIR RESPECTIVE STATE AGENCIES.

WHEREAS, many individuals with disabilities rely upon direct caregivers such as home care aides, attendant care workers, personal assistants, personal care attendants, habilitation technicians, respite care workers, certified nursing assistants and classroom aides; and

WHEREAS, a number of different agencies provide training for direct caregivers to work with individuals with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, with the various training programs there are varied standards and educational requirements for direct

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1 caregiver training; and

2 WHEREAS, training curricula for direct caregivers depend
3 upon the clients' needs, state requirements, federal
4 requirements and a number of other factors that give rise to
5 widely disparate forms of training; and

6 WHEREAS, consolidation of direct caregiver training
7 programs could potentially save money, provide uniform
8 standards and lead to better-trained direct caregivers; and

9 WHEREAS, the college of direct support offers a model of
10 an online training resource that provides training, using a
11 standardized curriculum, to direct caregiver trainees in
12 twenty-five states; and

13 WHEREAS, House Memorial 37, passed in 2009, directed
14 experts in the field to form a legislative task force to plan
15 and develop a training and education program that leads to the
16 credentialing of direct caregivers in the state; and

17 WHEREAS, the legislative task force found that duplication
18 likely exists within agencies providing education, training and
19 credentialing for direct caregivers; and

20 WHEREAS, the legislative task force recommended that a
21 core curriculum common to all direct caregivers be defined,
22 from which discipline-specific or subspecialty training could
23 be built; and

24 WHEREAS, the legislative task force recommended that
25 resources for educating and training direct caregivers be

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1 consolidated;

2 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
3 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the department
4 of health be requested to convene a task force to examine the
5 possibility of coordinating or consolidating training programs
6 in the state for direct caregivers across all disability
7 programs and their respective state agencies; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force assess the
9 economic savings, if any, that may result from coordinating or
10 consolidating direct caregiver training programs across all
11 disability programs and their respective state agencies; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force include
13 representatives from the department of health, the higher
14 education department, the human services department, the
15 children, youth and families department, the aging and long-
16 term services department, the developmental disabilities
17 planning council, the arc of New Mexico and disability rights
18 New Mexico; three New Mexicans with a disability, or their
19 legal representatives; and other members chosen on an ad hoc
20 basis as the secretary of health deems necessary; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force research direct
22 caregiver training models that are in use in other states, as
23 well as the merits of models such as the college of direct
24 support; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, by November 1, 2010, the task

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1 force report to the legislative health and human services
2 committee its findings and recommendations regarding the
3 possibility of coordinating or consolidating training programs
4 for direct caregivers across all disability programs and their
5 respective state agencies; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
7 transmitted to the secretary of health; the secretary of higher
8 education; the secretary of human services; the secretary of
9 children, youth and families; the secretary of aging and long-
10 term services; the executive director of the developmental
11 disabilities planning council; the public policy director for
12 the arc of New Mexico; and the executive director of disability
13 rights New Mexico.

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